



NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JRB **CARSWELL FIELD TEXAS**

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET



FW awaits lab tests on water

By BRUCE MILLAR Star-Telegram Writer

Fort Worth Water Department officials expect to have results Friday on tests of Lake Worth drinking water samples taken after release of a Carswell Air Force Base hazard-

ous-waste study.

The tests were ordered after a consulting firm's report said Fort Worth's drinking supply was in danger of contamination by hazardous wastes from the base. The report found "no direct evidence" of contaminants seeping outside the base. But it did cite "indirect evidence" of contamination at three sites on the base.

Lake Worth, Carswell's northern boundary, supplies drinking water to Fort Worth. Richard Sawey, Fort Worth city water department director, said city officials stepped up monitoring of Lake Worth after Air Force officials at General Dynamics reported ground water contamination last fall.

Air Force officials also ordered water samples taken. Results on these are expected to be returned from an Air Force laboratory in San Antonio within three weeks, offi-

cials said.

The consultant's report listed 10 potential hazardous waste sites at the base. The researchers concluded there is a "high potential" that contaminants are seeping into Lake Worth, the West Fork Trinity River and the Farmers Branch but the researchers found no proof.

Air Force officials said at a news conference Monday that they will analyze the report during the next 60 days. Within the next three to six months, the Air Force will begin soil borings, trenching and sampling to determine if the sites contain toxic wastes. Cleanup will begin after that if wastes are found, they said.

The Carswell study was conducted by CH2M Hill of Gainesville, Fla. The Air Force commissioned the study as part of an effort to assess potential environmental hazards at Air Force bases across the country.

Air Force Capt. David Carpenter said some cleanup would be necessary but he could not predict how much until further monitoring. He said the consultant had told base

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Test results expected Friday

officials that waiting up to six months before beginning the cleanup would not risk public health.

Carpenter, a bio-environmental engineer, said some potential waste sites have existed since 1945 and surface-water migration of contaminants occurs very slowly. In addition, ground water was flowing

eastward, away from Lake Worth. Land formations also were directing surface water's flow away from Lake Worth, Air Force spokesman Maj. Robert Lake said.

The report did not provide a chemical breakdown of each potential waste site. But solvents and cleaners used at Carswell included tetrachloride, trichloroethylene (TCE) and 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

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